

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An elongated pump rod or sinkerbar for use in a pump rod string for a downhole reciprocating well pump is provided with an elongated sleeve of high density or ultra high density polyethylene over a major portion of the length of the sinkerbar to minimize wear on the sinkerbar and a well tubing string as a consequence of deflection of the sinkerbar into engagement with the tubing string and to minimize frictional drag on the pump actuating mechanism as a result of such engagement. The polyethylene sleeve may be assembled over the sinkerbar by apparatus including an elongated hydraulic actuator which may be configured to push a sinkerbar into the sleeve while the sleeve is held stationary within a support tube, or by holding the sinkerbar stationary on a support and pulling the sleeve over the sinkerbar and from a continuous length of tubing from which the sleeve is formed.

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